

SUMMER 2023 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine





Dr. Marcus Jones
1992
President
Northwestern State
University

Dear Alumni,

As I write this, NSU is buzzing with future students and their families visiting campus for one of seven Freshman Connection sessions planned this summer on the main campus in Natchitoches as well as sessions in Alexandria, Leesville and Shreveport. It's encouraging to see these future Demons making new friends, learning NSU traditions and finding ways to get involved.

In addition to incoming freshmen, hundreds of prospective students will visit NSU this summer for camps in cheer, music, art, athletics, theatre, leadership and academic enrichment. The NSU staff goes above and beyond to create a positive impression and encourage them to visit again.

I wish you all a safe, rejuvenating and enjoyable summer. We'll see you this fall.

And as always, Fork 'Em, Demons!



Danielle Antoon Cobb
2010
Director of
Alumni Affairs

Dear Alumni,

If you take a look on the back cover of this edition of Alumni Columns, you will see a wonderful group of 50-year graduates that were honored in May for their Golden Jubilee. The picture doesn't quite convey how much fun this group was and I'm grateful to those who attended to collect their second diploma and share their stories.

It won't be long before planning begins to honor the graduating class of 1974, so if you are part of that group, be looking for information about that in the coming months.

Also currently being organized by my colleague and friend Cristy Bernard is an event near and dear to my heart, the 8th Annual Johnny Antoon Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament, set for June 10. So many of you are generous in sharing stories about my dad and it's heartwarming to know how many lives he touched. He would be pleased and humbled by the support of so many, as well as appreciate the laughter and memories.

Summers pass quickly and I hope you have the opportunity to recharge and reconnect. Follow along with our social media accounts and subscribe to The Purple Pulse newsletter to stay up to date on everything that is happening at NSU. Thank you for your support.

northwesternstatealumni.com



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Chamber Choir recordings available for listeners

The Northwestern State University Chamber Choir released its second recording "The Silver Swan: the Choral Music of Richard Burchard" in May. It is available for purchase online as a CD and on iTunes, NAXOS and Spotify.

Director of Choral Activities Dr. Nicholas B. Cummins said the project began with funding from the Prince Endowed Fellowship and was completed with assistance from Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Greg Handel, Director of the Dear School of Creative and Perform-

ing Arts Scott Burrell and Chair of the Department of Music Dr. Terrie Sanders. The recording features choirs from 2019-2021. The Chamber Choir's first CD was "For a Breath of Ecstasy" with composer Dr. Michael John Trotta.

"We wanted to find a way to show a final product that exemplified the importance of funding projects like our commissions with Richard Burchard and previously Michael Trotta," said Cummins. "The Lenn Prince Endowed Professorship and others funded at NSU provide faculty and students with opportunities to

undertake more extensive artistic or research projects. This CD will provide a concrete example to enable others to see the value of these endowed professorships and the great experiences they provide for our students and faculty at Northwestern State."

The Northwestern Chamber Choir, founded in 1987, is the flagship choral ensemble at Northwestern State. Cummins and the Northwestern Chamber Choir were invited to premiere the "Stabat Mater" by Burchard in London, England, at the Southwark Cathedral in June.

Hanging on to that old cap and gown? Donate it to NSU's Regalia Closet.

Northwestern State University graduates and alumni are invited to donate NSU caps and gowns for upcoming graduates who may not be able to purchase regalia. Dr. Jennifer Shaw, a research associate in the Department of Social Work, is coordinating the Regalia Closet. The "Gowns for Grads" helps students who are unable to secure a cap and gown in time for graduation.

Individuals who would like to donate their one-time-use cap and gown can contact Shaw at jshawj@nsula.edu or call (318) 357-4650 to make arrangements to donate the gown. Regalia can also be dropped off at the NSU police station on the main campus.

Monetary donations are also accepted and are used to purchase tassels, fabric disinfectant, hangers, clothing covers and other items. Monetary donations can be made through the NSU Foundation at the following link: northwesternstatealumni.com/gowns-for-grads/



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Candidate for sainthood Pelafigue's cause delivered to Vatican

The cause of Auguste "Nonco" Pelafigue, who attended Northwestern State when it was known as Louisiana State Normal School, has advanced from the Diocese of Lafayette to Rome. The formal paperwork, documents and other items for Pelafigue's sainthood cause are now at the Vatican in the possession of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, which oversees causes for beatification and canonization.

A ceremony took place in May to conclude the process begun by members of the Pelafigue family and friends from his hometown of Arnaudville and other supporters from the Diocese.

Pelafigue was a humble man, a teacher and faithful Catholic who lived simply and inspired faith in others. Affectionately called "Nonco" – a Cajun variation of uncle -- by his family and neighbors, his legacy of piety, faith and humility was well-known in the Arnaudville community.

He was born in Beaucens, France, Jan. 10, 1888, and his family immigrated to Arnaudville a year later. He attended two terms at Normal, where he was a member of the Apostleship of Prayer, and League of the Sacred Heart, a universal Catholic Organization. He

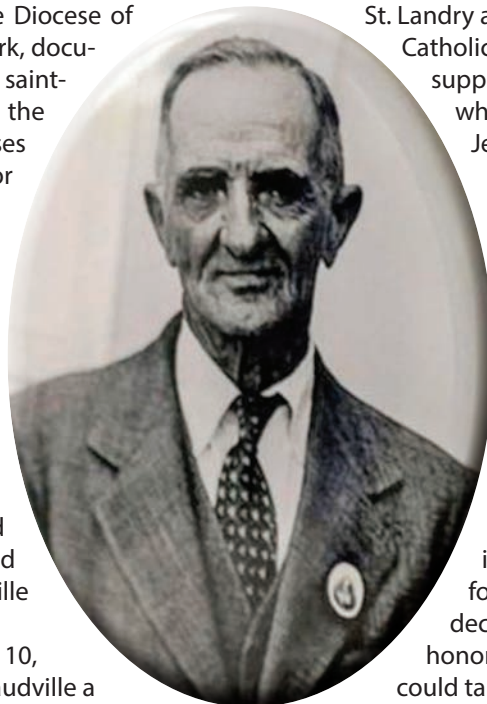
earned teaching credentials as Normal, as well as what is now UL-Lafayette. He taught at rural public schools in St. Landry and St. Martin parishes and at a small Catholic school, was a church volunteer and supporter of the Apostleship of Prayer League, which was devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

A website dedicated to Pelafigue refers to him as an apostle, a missionary, a catechist, an evangelist and a deacon of the 20th century. He died in a Lafayette nursing home on July 6, 1977, but his presence in the community was remembered and remained for many years.

Friends and relatives formed a foundation to propose Pelafigue for sainthood in 2012.

In 2020, he was among three individuals from Acadiana who were put forth for canonization as saints and were declared Servants of God, itself an important honor. But whether Pelafigue is named a saint could take years, or centuries or not at all. The decision now lies with the Vatican.

Information on Pelafigue and his cause for beatification is available at www.nonco.org/.



Watson Library rededicated in memory of scholar, librarian

Northwestern State University's Head Archivist and Records Officer Donna Baker hosted a rededication of Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library April 24 in celebration of the library's 50th year. The celebration took place in the Cammie G. Henry Research Center on the third floor of the library. Watson Library opened in 1972 during the administration of president Dr. Arnold Kilpatrick, and was formally dedicated to long-time librarian Eugene P. Watson in May 1973.

The April 24 celebration was planned in conjunction with National Library Week.

The celebration's focus was on the scholar and librarian for whom the library is named, Eugene P. Watson, who served as head librarian from 1940-1964 and founded Alpha Beta Alpha honorary library fraternity with the very first chapter at Northwestern State.

Baker said Watson's life was dedicated to "Books. People. Service. Life," which is also the motto of Alpha Beta Alpha.

Watson's love of words, language, scholarship and writing have had a lasting impact at NSU and in the field of library science. He was born in Natchitoches in 1911 and stricken



Gathered around a portrait of Eugene P. Watson are University Libraries staff. On the front row from left are Sherri Voebel, Kerri Christopher, Terrie Sebren, Jacqueline Hawkins, Yolanda Bobb, Megan Lowe and Michael Matthews. On the back row are LSMSA student volunteer Daniel Kennen; Anna MacDonald, Debbie Huntington, Sontonia Helaire, Brent Thomas, Sara Rebstock, Donna Baker, Michelle DeMattie.

with polio as a child that left him physically disabled for the rest of his life. He completed high school at St. Mary's and earned a B.A. at Louisiana State Normal College, as NSU was then known, in 1933. He earned a master's degree in 1934 and a Master of Library Science in 1937 from LSU and completed a Ph.D. in English at the University of Texas in 1951.

Watson was a professor of English at NSU from 1934-37

Jefferson Highway marker unveiled, marks spot of 1922 tourist camp

A new sign marks the spot that was once the site of a Jefferson Highway Tourist Camp that opened in Natchitoches in 1922. The location, where Northwestern State University's Eugene P. Watson Library is today, was once a popular spot for motorists traveling the intracontinental Jefferson Highway that stretched "From Pine to Palm," Winnipeg, Canada to New Orleans.

The marker was unveiled April 18 to acknowledge a stop frequented by travelers who were welcome to stay at the tourist camp up to seven days at no charge, in addition to receiving free fuel. Just as today, visitors were encouraged to explore the area and enjoy Cane River and other attractions before heading on to their next stop. NSU HMT students participated in the unveiling as a precursor to National Travel and Tourism Week.

Claire Guin of Shreveport, who just completed her degree in Hospitality Management and Tourism, spearheaded the marker installation initiative as her capstone project while interning at the Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau. Guin worked with the CVB, Northwestern State and the Jefferson Highway Association, a group that seeks to bring awareness to the route, which preceded numbered state and federal roadways. The Jefferson Highway Association identifies, preserves, interprets and improves access to the Jefferson Highway and its associated sites in an effort to promote tourism.

Guin said the spirit of hospitality continues in Natchitoches and she was pleased to play a role in bringing awareness to a unique piece of Natchitoches and American history.

The Jefferson Highway was created between 1915 and 1925 as motor vehicles were rolling off assembly lines

and there were few hard roads in the United States. Portions of the route are still named Jefferson Highway, such as Old Jefferson Highway in Baton Rouge and Jefferson Street in Natchitoches. Camp sites along the highway were marked with blue and white JH logos painted on telephone poles.

In addition to motorists, the Natchitoches Tourist Camp was also a popular spot that featured music shows, evangelists and caravans of gypsies. In Louisiana, the Jefferson Highway passed through 17 parishes and many communities that were left isolated after the state highway and interstate system was developed.

More information on the history of the Jefferson Highway and how the communities along the route celebrate its history is available at www.jeffersonhighway.org/.



May 2023 graduate Claire Guin of Shreveport coordinated the installation of the Jefferson Highway marker as a capstone project for her degree in Hospitality and Management Tourism.



Robert DeBlieux Collection, NSU Archives

Library rededicated continued

and an assistant librarian from 1937 to 1940 when he was named head librarian. Alpha Beta Alpha was founded May 3, 1950, as the nation's first co-educational undergraduate library science fraternity. NSU's

chapter, the Alpha Chapter, was reestablished in 2018. Watson was responsible for creating the Louisiana Room, a collection of books and papers related to the history and culture of Louisiana, in 1940, a time

when few universities were collecting regional materials on the American south. The Louisiana Room forms the core of collections in the Cammie G. Henry Research Center that includes more than 800 manuscript collections.

CID named for Gail Metoyer Jones

Northwestern State University's Center for Inclusion and Diversity, was named for an individual whose life and career focused on support and advocacy for minority and marginalized populations. A dedication ceremony took place April 19 honoring Gail Metoyer Jones, with a capacity crowd that included many former students, family, friends, faculty, staff and administrators from NSU and the Natchitoches community.

Jones, whose name was selected by students for NSU's Center for Inclusion and Diversity, thanked the NSU presidents she served with, Dr. Robert Alost, Dr. Randall Webb and Dr. Chris Maggio.

"I didn't get here all by myself. I have my family, students, trusted faculty and staff, presidents that believed in me, who saw something in Gail Jones," she said.

The Gail Metoyer Jones Center for Inclusion and Diversity is located on the second floor of the Friedman Student Union. Brittany Broussard has served as the center's director since 2016 when former NSU President Dr. Jim Henderson tasked a committee of students, faculty and staff to create a diversity center on campus.

Broussard said the CID is not just for NSU students and faculty. Much of the Center's programming is open to the community.

Jones was inducted into the NSU Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line last October. She earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's in student personnel services from Northwestern State. Jones worked 15 years at NSU initially as an admission counselor and recruiter and served as counselor with the first Louisiana Scholars College class. She moved into the position as director of TRIO: Student Support Services and Retention Coordinator, Freshman Connection and New Student Programs.



CID Director Brittany Broussard, left, presented a plaque to Gail Metoyer Jones.

She left NSU in 1998 for a service-oriented career with the Boys and Girls Club of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office.

Jones is a member of NSU Alumni Association, board member emeritus and has served in leadership roles in several community, philanthropic and preservation organizations.

Nominations are open for Hall of Distinguished Educators

Northwestern State University's College of Education and Human Development is seeking nominations for the 2023 Hall of Distinguished Educators and Outstanding Young Professionals.

The Hall of Distinguished Educators is the highest honor bestowed by the School of Education. Nominees must have earned an education degree from Northwestern State University, must have a minimum of 30 years of service in the field of education and must have made significant contributions to the field of education and/or the larger community at a local, state, national or international level. Nominees may be living or deceased.

Outstanding Young Professionals in Education must have earned an education degree from NSU and have a minimum of 10 years of service in the field of education. Nominees must have made significant contributions to the field of education and/or the larger community. Nominees must be age 45 or younger.

More than 100 educators have been honored with the Hall of Distinguished Educators award since 2000.

Applications must be received by Tuesday, August 15. Applications can be completed here: <https://tinyurl.com/HDEnomination23>. For more information, contact Stephanie Anthony-Smith in the Teacher Education Center at (318) 357-6278 or email anthony@snsula.edu.



2023
HALL OF
Distinguished
EDUCATORS



Demon Battalion honors outstanding cadet, alumni

Cadet Michael Shamblin was awarded the MG (R) Erbon W. Wise Touchstone Award and three distinguished alumni were inducted into the Demon Regiment's Hall of Fame during the 73rd annual Demon Battalion Military Ball April 15.

This year's Hall of Fame Inductees are Col. Ronald R. Wilkins, Cpt. Donald R. Davis, and the late 1LT Thomas P. McCullough.

Wilkins graduated from Northwestern in 1989 with a degree in Business Administration and commissioned in the Army Transportation Corps. He served in the Louisiana Army National Guard and the Texas Army National Guard prior to serving in the Active Guard Reserve program. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Touro University International. His military education includes the Transportation Advanced Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College, Defense Strategy Course, and the Joint Warfare College.

His most recent assignments include Senior Army Guard Advisor for U.S. Forces Afghanistan and Chief of Staff for the Minister of Interior, Afghanistan. He concluded his military career in 2021 as the Chief of Sustainment, Three Corps Headquarters, Fort Hood, Texas.

During his years at NSU, Wilkins was a top track and field athlete. He was an integral part of the NSU 1985 and 1987 Track and Field Gulf Star and Southland Conference Championship team. He is a Master Certified USA Track and Field Official and has more than 35,000 community service hours for youth and collegiate track and field events.

A Distinguished Military Graduate, Davis graduated from Northwestern in December 1987 and commissioned in the Medical Services Corps. His military education includes the AMEDD Basic and Advanced Officer Course, Air Assault School and the Combined Arms Service Staff School. He earned a Master of Arts in Human Resources Development, a Master of Business Administration, and Doctor of Divinity from the Omega Bible Institute and Seminary.

Davis began his career as an enlisted soldier in 1976 and served with various medical units from battalion through installation level. He is a Distinguished Member of the Army Medical Department Regiment and belongs to the Order of Military Medical Merit.

Davis retired from the military in 1998. He is the associate minister of Greater Emmanuel Family Worship Center and has worked as a JROTC Senior Army Instructor for more than 20 years. He was elected to the Spring (Texas) ISD District School Board for three terms and was appointed as a director of its Education Foundation.

Davis is the father of two daughters, Sharon and Dieatra. A published author, his career, life accomplishments and contributions are notable examples of "duty, honor, and country."

McCullough commissioned as an Infantry officer in May 1969 upon his graduation from Northwestern State with a degree in English.

In 1970, he deployed to Vietnam and, within a few months, was selected for company command. During this period, he received severe combat wounds while conducting operations near Quang Ngai. With less than six months into his deployment, he was shot through his back and right arm resulting in paralysis for nearly 52 years.

McCullough was awarded two Silver Stars for heroism, three Bronze Stars for meritorious achievement, and the Purple Heart. He received the awards at a ceremony held at Northwestern in 1971, where NSU President Dr. Arnold Kilpatrick proclaimed October 7, 1971, as Thomas P. McCullough Day.

McCullough was placed on the Permanent Disability Retired List in 1971 and later served as VA Chief of Prosthetics for the State of Oregon. He became involved in the Kiwanis Club and with the Boys and Girls Club of Rogue Valley, Oregon. He later served as on their Board of Directors and was deemed an Emeritus Board Member until his passing in September 2022.

His wife, Barbara McCullough, accepted the award on his behalf.

Information on NSU's Department of Military Science can be found at www.nsula.edu/rotc.



Cadet Michael Shamblin and LTC Joshua Drake, professor of military science



Cpt. Donald R. Davis, center, LTC Arthur Smalley, right, and LTG Joseph Cosumano Jr., honorary colonel of the regiment



Barbara McCullough, center, representing her late husband 1LT Thomas P. McCullough with Smalley and Cosumano



Col. Ronald R. Wilkins, center, Smalley, right, and Cosumano

Spotlights

Theodore “Ted” Mugnier (2002) has joined Cenlar FSB, the nation’s leading mortgage loan servicer, as director of information security.

Mugnier, a former United States Marine officer, has two decades of working in intelligence, as well as orchestrating cyberspace planning and operations in support of strategic initiatives.

At Cenlar, Mugnier will be responsible for working alongside the cybersecurity team to address current and emerging risk, help to facilitate improvement of processes and procedures to ensure Cenlar continues to remain compliant and support a strong cyber engineering function.

Prior to joining Cenlar, Mugnier held multiple leadership roles for the U.S. Marine Corps. Throughout his career, he has managed teams of more than 100. Most recently, he supported the Cybersecurity Intelligence Directorate at Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He was also an operations director where he supported the cyber planning element at U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida. Other positions include serving as director of Cyber Intelligence Division for the Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command and deputy director of Intelligence for a specialized Cyber Joint Task force at U.S. Cyberspace Command in Fort Meade, Maryland.

Mugnier holds a Master of Science in Cyberspace Security Policy and Management from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Science from NSU. He is a graduate of the Joint Advanced Cyberspace Warfare Course, as well as the Joint and Combined Warfighting School.



Mugnier



Bentley

Chad Bentley (2006) was named the principal at Bullard (Texas) High School this past April.

Bentley previously served as assistant principal and interim academic dean at Canyon Lake High School in Comal ISD since 2020. Before his administrative role in Comal ISD, he served in Malakoff ISD as fine arts coordinator from 2013 to 2020 and head band director from 2012 to 2016. He has also

served as head band director at Cayuga High School and assistant band director at Eustace High School.

Bentley earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education

from Northwestern State and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Stephen F. Austin State University. He and his wife, Jess, who is also an educator, have three children, Jared, 26, and his wife Macie, Sonny, a recent graduate, and Stella, 5.

Fort Valley (Georgia) State University named **Dr. Renae Myles Payne** as the university’s athletic director in April. Payne has more than 25 years of experience in intercollegiate athletics, having previously served the University of Miami where she was senior associate athletic director for administration and chief diversity officer. Before working at Miami, she was



Payne

at Winthrop where she was senior associate athletic director for internal operations and senior women’s administrator. Prior to that, she held positions at Alabama A&M, Southwest Baptist, Delaware State, San Jose State, Pittsburgh and Connecticut.

Payne is an active leader on the national scene. She is vice president of the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association and will begin a tenure as president in June 2023. She has served on NCAA committees and is a regular present at the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, College Athletics Business Management Association and Women Leaders in College Sports. In 2019, she was named Administrator of the Year in Division I by Women Leaders in College Sports. She is a member of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority.

A native of Clarksdale, Mississippi, Payne earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1997, where she was a track and field athlete. She earned an M.Ed. in sports administration at NSU and Ed.D. in higher education administration at the University of Pittsburgh.

Payne and her husband Marcus have two adult daughters, Brianna and Ariana.

Southeastern Arkansas College in Pine Bluff named **Steven Adams, Jr.** as its inaugural head baseball coach as administrators work to get the SeArk Sharks athletic programs off the ground. Adams holds a Master of Science in Sport Administration (2014) and a Bachelor of General Studies with minors in History and Social Science (2004), both from NSU.

He has served as director of Baseball Operations at Eastern Kentucky University and cofounder and director

of Baseball Operations and Player Development at Team Louisiana HS Summer Baseball Organization.

From 2016 to 2021, he served as the head baseball coach, educator, CDL bus driver and outside sports field maintenance staff for baseball, softball and soccer at LSU-Alexandria. During his tenure, he raised over \$271,000, graduated 55 student-athletes and helped 14 players move on to play professional baseball. He also managed to carry between 45-65 student-athletes every year with no more than three total coaches on staff.

Adams earned several awards and honors, including the 2006 Northwood's League Coach of the Year, several RRAC Player of the Year and Pitcher of the Year, All-American and All-Louisiana team selections.



Adams



Thomas

Dr. Jeremy Thomas (1997) has been appointed president of Black Hawk College, a community college with campuses in Moline and Kewanee, Illinois, leaving his position as president of Oklahoma City Community College.

Thomas has more than 20 years of experience in higher education, including instructional and leadership positions in academic

advising, campus recreation, educational partnerships, enrollment management, recruitment and student organizations. Prior to serving at OCCC, he was at Blinn College, Angelina College, College of the Mainland and Northwestern State.

He holds an Associate of Arts in Music from Northeast Texas Community College and another from Trinity Valley Community College, Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Northwestern, a graduate certificate in academic advising from Kansas State University and a Doctor of Education from Grambling State University. At NSU, he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and the Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band.

A radiography and computer tomography instructor at Houston Community College-Coleman College for Health Sciences leaves a strong legacy as he heads into semi-retirement — nine faculty members.

Roger Bumgardner (1977), M.P.H., R.T., served as a full-time faculty member at HCC Coleman College for nearly 27 years. In that time, he inspired several radiography and CT graduates to return to their alma mater to teach the next generation of students.

When Bumgardner arrived in Houston in 1986, he did not intend to teach, but he was encouraged to accept a position as a radiography instructor at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. That job eventually led him to teach radiography and CT at HCC Coleman College in 1996.

Bumgardner intends to become a part-time instructor at HCC Coleman College beginning in Spring 2024 and will use his spare time to volunteer for San Jose Clinic and Meals on Wheels as well as travel overseas. He may even volunteer with the Peace Corps once again, having served two years in the organization at St. Vincent, West Indies, before moving to Houston.

An Ashland native, Bumgardner holds a bachelor's degree in radiologic science from Northwest State University and a master's degree in public health from UTHealth Houston.



Bumgardner



NORTHWESTERN STATE ALUMNI PLAZA

All supporters of Northwestern State University are invited to celebrate their lifelong connection to the university by participating in the growth of the Alumni Plaza. Please consider contributing to this endeavor by purchasing an **ENGRAVED BRICK**, which will help ensure that the great traditions of community, commitment and excellence at NSU continue.



northwesternstatealumni.com/alumni-plaza/



Journalist Gary Fields in good company as Louisiana Legend honoree

Award-winning journalist Gary Fields (1982, 1984) was among the honorees recognized by Friends of Louisiana Public Broadcasting at the Louisiana Legends Gala this past spring. The celebration annually honors Louisiana's best and brightest.

Fields has more than 40 years of journalism and communications experience, including at the Associated Press and the Wall Street Journal. Fields contributed articles on the events of Sept. 11 earning him and his colleagues a Pulitzer Prize in 2002 for breaking news reporting. He has won numerous awards including Journalist of the Year by the Association of Black Journalists.

He is a member of NSU's Long Purple Line, the alumni hall of distinction and is one of NSU's Distinguished Communications Professionals.

Gary Fields, left, with fellow 2023 Louisiana Legend honoree Gayle Benson

Wright retires from RSM after 50 years in the business

Tommy Wright, tax partner in Houston, retired April 30 after an impressive 50-year career—the past nine years spent with RSM US LLP. After graduating from Northwestern State with his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1973, Wright moved to Houston and joined Deloitte as an audit staff member. Seven months later, he transitioned to tax, and in just eight years he progressed to tax partner. In 1985, Wright joined a local boutique tax firm founded by two former colleagues. The firm, Margolis, Phipps & Wright, PC, joined forces with RSM through an acquisition in December 2013.

Wright focused his career in private client services and has served business owners, wealthy families and family offices. As a member of RSM's national Family Office team, he has served as one of the co-leaders for the tax line of business in the Family Office (FO) practice. In 2014, he began serving on the national PCS advisory committee and helped with the buildout of tax strategy and service offerings for the FO practice.

With a passion for learning and relationship-building, Wright has supported the expansion and growth of the FO practice. He also committed to mentoring other professionals to develop their careers. He serves many large client families in the Houston region and is a member of the RSM Top 100 Initiative targeting the top FO prospects in the U.S. and Canada.

When asked about the most enjoyable aspects of his career, Wright spoke enthusiastically about teammates and fellow leaders.

"Working with clients and collaborating with team members to solve issues has been incredibly rewarding," Wright said. "I've been privileged to work with so many talented and creative people, not only in Houston, but across the globe. In all these settings, I've gained insight into the talents of each team member and gained so much appreciation for their intellect and perspectives. We have such a wonderful group of people at RSM. I'm blessed to have been given the opportunity to be associated with RSM."

And when asked what has been the most surprising, he replied, "I can't believe how casual the business attire has become recently! When I began my career, dark business suits with ties were the only appropriate attire for men."

Wright offered these nuggets of advice as he prepares for

retirement:

"Strive for excellence in everything you pursue, not only at work, but in your personal life as well. Strive to do your best every day. The demonstration of care for your fellow humans, along with dedication and personal efforts, will pay dividends in your lives and careers. Treat others as you wish to be treated. Serve as an example for others and never burn bridges in life or in relationships."

When asked what he'll miss most, Wright said, "No doubt I will miss interacting with all the people that comprise RSM. The support, encouragement and mentoring I received from leaders throughout my career was so much a part of my success and it's hard to envision missing the opportunity to interact with them on a daily basis following my retirement."

With the extra time on his hands in retirement, Wright plans to continue exercising and to be as active as possible daily, travel and continue to serve on various charitable boards and organizations. He looks forward to spending more time with his family, including three young grandchildren.

Wright currently serves as vice president of the NSU Foundation and is Finance/Investment Committee Chair. He has made significant financial contributions over the years, including the Tommy M. Wright Endowed Scholarship and Tommy M. Wright Endowed Professorship in the School of Business. He has also supported numerous other scholarships and professorships, the Columns Fund and fund raising events.

Wright serves on the Northwestern State University Foundation board and is a trustee of Mary R. Gallaspy Charitable Trust No. 2. He was inducted into the Long Purple Line, NSU's alumni hall of distinction, in 2019.



Wright

Strother awarded Nth Degree at surprise retirement party

NSU honored retiring basketball coach Dewain Strother with an Nth Degree during a surprise retirement celebration April 22. The Nth Degree is one of the university's highest honors and is bestowed for going the extra mile in meritorious service to mankind. It is presented to those whose professional responsibilities and various other roles in making the world better are carried out to the Nth Degree.

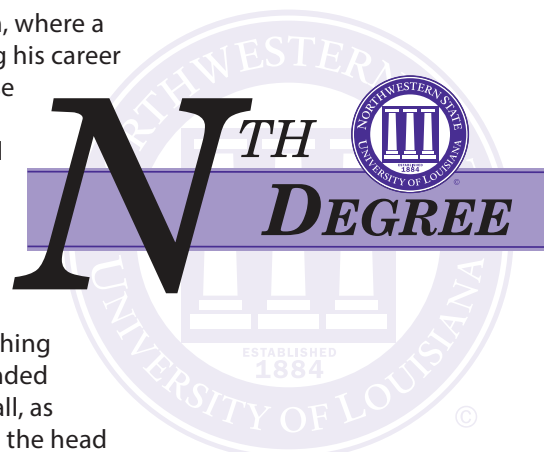
As a girls basketball coach, Strother won 1,235 games in 40 seasons at Florien. His teams made 21 appearances in the LHSAA's state tournament, winning six championships and finishing as the runner-up five times. Strother's accolades are numerous with 23 district coach of the year awards and four Class B coach of the year titles. He was also named the Shreveport Times All Area Coach of the Year three times. His basketball teams set a national high school sports record for most points in a season, a feat that still stands today.

Strother graduated from Northwestern in 1975 and earned his master's in education from NSU in 1982. He has been recognized by the NSU Demon and Lady Demon basketball programs in the "Grads Done Good" display in

Prather Coliseum, where a poster describing his career is in a display case along with other highly-successful alumni who have enjoyed great success coaching basketball.

Strother's coaching experience extended beyond basketball, as he also served as the head softball coach from 1980-88 and head golf coach from 1988 to present day. He leads all high school basketball coaches (boys and girls) all-time statewide in career wins. He was inducted into the LHSAA Hall of Fame on April 18, 2023.

Strother has been athletic director for over 30 years at Florien, and taught social studies in the 7th and 8th grades for over 20 years.



Brown earns Lifetime Achievement Award from Chamber

The Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce presented Nettles Brown with the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award winner for his outstanding community involvement. Brown was honored at the Chamber's Best of Natchitoches Awards Luncheon May 3.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a leader whose long-term active engagement in the community has had a significant, positive economic impact locally and recognizes a successful leader in a company, industry and the community who has taught future generations by example. Contributions are recognized over the entirety of a career.

Retired Colonel Nettles Brown served in the U.S. Air Force for 33 years in hospital administration, including service at the Pentagon and in Saudi Arabia. Brown is a graduate of Coushatta High School and earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting in 1963 and Master's in Business Administration in 1970 from NSU. He owned and operated Brown's Accounting and Tax Service in Natchitoches for 20 years before

establishing Waskom, Brown, and Associates in 1999 as a co-owner with long-time friend and business partner David Waskom, where he continues to offer tax and accounting services in addition to New York Life Insurance.

Brown has dedicated much of his life to community service and played an integral role in various community organizations. He has remained a dedicated member of the Kiwanis Club for decades, having served as international president of the world-wide organization from 1999-2000. In addition, he is a member of several local Kiwanis clubs, including Natchitoches, Tombstone and Red River Parish, as well as the tri-state club of LaMissTenn in Baton Rouge.

Brown has served the United Methodist Church in a number of capacities, including as an elected member of the Jurisdictional Council and General Council for the Louisiana Conference, a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry for the Louisiana Conference and a member and past president of the board for the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana. He has also served his home church, First United Methodist Church, on a



Brown

number of committees and boards.

Brown currently serves as board member and president of the Natchitoches Parish Port Commission. He has previously served on the Natchitoches Regional Medical Center Foundation, was past president of Magnolia Housing Corporation of Natchitoches and was an elected member of the Natchitoches Parish School Board. He is married to Glenelle Pearce Brown, and they have two children and three grandchildren.



Iota Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, gathered to announce the Edwina M. Lewis Future Educator Award. Lewis, seated, center, was the founding advisor for the Iota Mu Chapter when it was chartered at NSU in 1972, serving as advisor for 25 years and had a long career as an educator and mentor in Natchitoches schools.

Teacher, mentor Edwina Lewis honored with scholarship

Alumnae and current members of Iota Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated have created

the Edwina M. Lewis Future Educator Award to honor a woman who has positively impacted her community for decades as an educator and mentor. Iota Mu surprised Lewis by announcing a donation of over \$14,000 to the NSU Foundation to establish the endowed scholarship, which will be presented to a sophomore or junior majoring in education with preference for a member of the sorority. Lewis was the founding advisor for the Iota Mu Chapter when it was chartered at NSU in 1972, serving as advisor for 25 years. Friends can contribute to the scholarship by visiting northwesternstatealumni.com/lewis-award/.

Lewis is a Natchitoches native who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education at Grambling in 1957 and returned to Natchitoches to dedicate herself to her family and community. NSU became a big part



of both. She earned a Master of Arts in education at NSU in 1967. During her long career, she taught middle

school math for 10 years and was a supervising teacher for the NSU Middle Lab School for 21 years. She was an adjunct instructor for NSU's College of Education for 10 years and named Louisiana State Middle School Teacher of the Year in 1987. She also worked

as a test preparation tutor for state standardized testing programs.

Lewis is a lifetime member of the Grambling Alumni Association and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and is also a founding member of its Natchitoches Alumnae Chapter.

On hand during the presentation were past and current members of NSU's Iota Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, her son, Kevin M. Lewis, Sr. and his wife, Rene Crosby Lewis; daughter, Denise Lewis Patrick; grandson Kristopher M. Lewis, his wife, Zacchea, and their son Kristopher Jr.

Both Denise and Rene were initiated through Iota Mu Chapter at NSU.

Lewis is a member of the Natchitoches Parish Retired Educators' Association, Phi Delta Kappa Professional Education Fraternity and the Natchitoches Voters and Civic League. She served on the Natchitoches Parish Library Board of Trustees for 24 years and on the Board of Directors for Natchitoches Technical College for 20 years. She is a former member of the Natchitoches Parish Literacy Council and a former host parent for Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts.

Lewis has been recognized with many honors over the years. She was Natchitoches Business and Professional Women's Woman of the year in 1997. In 2016, she was inducted into NSU's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development's Hall of Distinguished Educators. In 2018, she was named a Natchitoches Treasure.

Lewis was married for 56 years to the late G. Stanley Lewis. She is also a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church where she has been involved with the Ladies Altar Society and served as a Eucharistic minister and lector.

Sciences creates Dr. Jerry Allen Memorial Scholarship

Northwestern State University's School of Biological and Physical Sciences is creating a scholarship to honor a late faculty member who inspired and influenced microbiology students for 35 years.

The Dr. Jerry Allen Memorial Scholarship was created through an initial donation of \$2,000 from the School to the NSU Foundation with plans to make annual donations until the scholarship is fully endowed at \$10,000.

"Dr. Allen played a huge part in my love for microbiology and research," said Dr. Christopher Lyles, department head. "We, the faculty and staff, miss him and often reminisce about his classes, a sentiment I believe is shared by many people that went to school here at NSU."

"Our family is absolutely delighted by this," said daughter Kathy Allen Fulton, a 1993 NSU graduate. "As kids, we all thought our dad was pretty special. When we grew up and heard the same from our friends who took his classes it made us all proud to be 'Dr. Allen's' kids. That continues to this day."

Allen was born in Calvin in 1936 and spent his career as professor of microbiology, teaching and at times leading the department from 1970 until his retirement in 2005.

Allen was widely loved by his students, of whom he frequently spoke fondly. He taught advanced microbiology, immunology and virology courses as well as introductory science courses. Any medical or nursing student at Northwestern during his tenure would have encountered

Dr. Allen's classes. Those students have gone on to research, patient care and other influential roles across northwest Louisiana and around the globe.



Following a research fellowship at Rocky Mountain Laboratory / National Institutes of Health, Allen gained a prestigious post-doctoral position at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, where he met the love of his life, Mary and quickly became father to Mary's daughters Mary and Nancy.

Following their marriage in August 1970, the family was soon joined by the couple's three younger children, Kathy, Jerry Lee II, a 2001 graduate, and Becca, a Lady Demon softball player and 1999 NSU graduate.

During his career, Allen was a prolific researcher, author and speaker and was invited to speak on his work at conferences around the globe. In addition to working at NSU, he spent many years as the bacteriologist for Natchitoches Regional Medical Center.

Allen was a veteran of the United States Army, having been drafted into service and serving as a cryptographer at posts in the US and post-war Korea. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette), a master's from Northwestern State and a Ph.D. in microbiology from Louisiana State University.

He passed away in May 2021.

Friends can contribute towards the endowment by visiting www.northwesternstatealumni.com.

Davis honored with surprise HHP Scholarship upon retirement

Cindy Poole Davis was surprised with a scholarship presentation during a retirement brunch and reception April 22. The event included a slide show and remarks from colleagues, along with the scholarship announcement created by friends who contributed to the fund through the NSU Foundation.

Davis was on faculty in the Department of Health and Human Performance for 27 years and director of Aquatics at Nesom Natatorium and at the Rec Complex.

To contribute to the Cindy Poole Davis Health and Exercise Science Scholarship, visit northwesternstatealumni.com/davis-scholarship/.



Friends and family gathered to congratulate Cindy Poole Davis on her retirement and scholarship initiative.

The Fourth Column

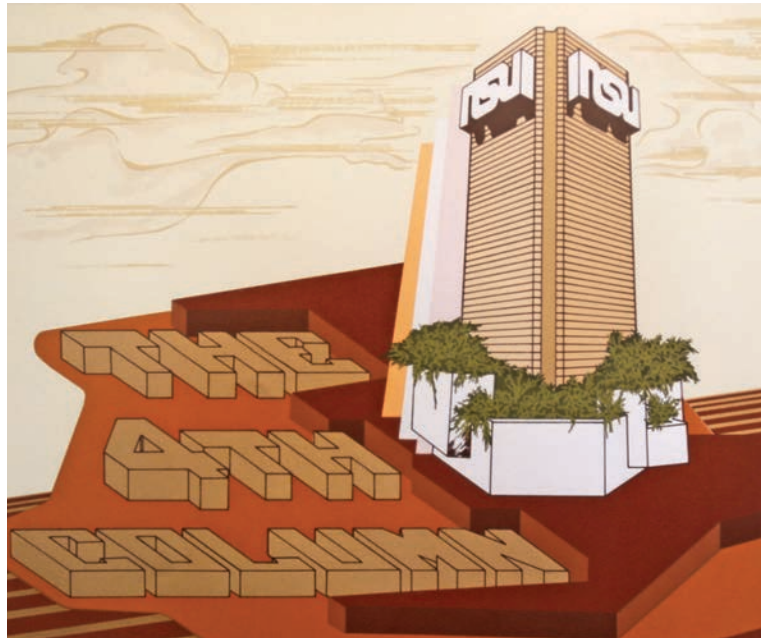
Tony Hernandez (1982) donated a piece of NSU memorabilia to the Alumni Center, a limited edition screen print by Rivers Murphy, retired professor of art.

Hernandez said the prints were created as a fund raiser for a proposed project in the late 1970s to place a fourth column at the intersection of Hwy. 6 and the Bypass. He was working for Alumni Director Ray Carney at the time, and they received prints #1 and #2 of 200. The project never came to fruition and Hernandez believes the bulk of the prints were stored in Caldwell Hall, which burned in 1982.

"I just wonder how many of these are still around," Hernandez said.

If you have any information about these prints or can fill in details, email jacksonl@nsula.edu.

Hernandez also donated a framed collage of memorabilia relating to the Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band centennial from 2011.



Father of NSU provost honored with memorial scholarship

The Kenneth Johannes Handel Endowed Scholarship has been established at NSU, created by friends and colleagues of Dr. Greg Handel, NSU's Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School, to honor his father, who passed away April 28 at his home in Freeman, South Dakota.

"This was such a meaningful surprise to me when it was announced at our President's Cabinet luncheon," Handel said. "I am so grateful for my Northwestern State family, and this is a tremendous way to honor my father."

Handel and his family are developing criteria for the scholarship that will be awarded to a deserving student next year. The family hopes to endow the scholarship at the \$10,000 level.

Kenneth Johannes Handel was born on February 15, 1935, in Menno, South Dakota. His family moved to a farm northwest of Freeman, South Dakota, in 1946. He graduated

from Freeman High School in 1953 and attended Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota for four years before taking a job with Fred Haar Company—John Deere. He served as parts manager for Fred Haar Company for 43 years.

Mr. Handel served for 30 years as a volunteer fireman and assistant fire chief for the City of Freeman. He served on the Freeman City Council and the Freeman Baseball Association, playing with amateur baseball teams for many years. He enjoyed supporting his children's love of and pursuits in sports and music, and spent many hours driving to athletic events, music lessons and concerts.

He married Corrine Schmuck on July 12, 1960, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Freeman. The couple reared two sons,

Dr. Handel and his brother Mark.

Friends who wish to contribute to the scholarship can do so at northwesternstatealumni.com/handel-scholarship/.



Kenneth Johannes Handel



Natchitoches student earns P.E.O. Chapter AG Scholarship

P.E.O Chapter AG awarded a scholarship to Madelyn Spillman of Natchitoches. The organization presents one scholarship per semester to a Northwestern State University female student from Natchitoches Parish who qualifies by exhibiting excellence in leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community service and potential for future success. Spillman, a general studies major and Demon cheerleader, is the daughter of Misty Dalme and Yancy Spillman. From left are Gayle Howell, Dr. Virginia Crossno, Spillman, Dalme and Kathy Carter.

Borders scholarship, Meraki Award presented to student artist

Mickayla Love of Cecilia was named the 2023 recipient of the Lisa Chesser Borders Endowed Scholarship and Meraki Award, established in 2019 by Natchitoches artist James Borders to honor his late wife. Love, who graduated in May, is one of Borders' former students.

The scholarship presentation took place April 24 in the Lisa Chesser Borders Permanent Student Art Collection gallery in the Academic Success Center, located on the first floor of Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library. The space features a permanent exhibit of student artwork.

Later in the day, Love's senior show featuring paintings and textiles opened in Gallery II of the Creative and Performing Arts Center. James

Borders established the Lisa Chesser Borders Scholarship in memory of his wife, who lost her battle with cancer in 2018 at age 49.

Borders said he hopes to inspire future recipients "to continue Lisa's legacy by maintaining high standards in their pursuit of a beautiful and creative life."

Information on NSU's Department of Fine and Graphic Art is available at www.nsula.edu/art.



Mickayla Love is the 2023 recipient of the Lisa Chesser Borders Scholarship and Meraki Award. From left are James Borders, Love and Leslie Gruesbeck, head of the Department of Fine and Graphic Art.

McLamore Scholarship honors legacy of long-time educator

The family of the late Bob W. McLamore are honoring an individual with a life-long love of teaching and learning by establishing the Bob W. McLamore Memorial Scholarship for a Northwestern State University student. Friends can contribute to the scholarship at northwesternstatealumni.com/mclamore-scholarship/.

The McLamore Memorial Scholarship will be presented to an entering freshman majoring in education, biology or chemistry. Candidates must have a 3.0 or better grade point average and a composite ACT score of 21 or better. Preference will be given to seniors at DeRidder High School.

McLamore grew up in Natchitoches and attended Natchitoches High School where he lettered in football, basketball and track and obtained the rank of Eagle Scout. He earned a B.S. in chemistry and biology at NSU in 1970 and later earned a master's degree in educational supervision and instruction with +30 from McNeese State University.

McLamore served the Louisiana



Bob W. McLamore

public school system for 42 years. He began his teaching career in 1970 teaching science classes at Westlake High School, and while there earned the State Science Teacher of the Year Award presented by the Louisiana Academy of Science.

After two years at Westlake, he then moved to DeRidder to begin a long education career. He began teaching Chemistry at DeRidder High

School in 1972, the year that the new high school was opened. He later became assistant principal and principal at DeRidder High School. During his principalship, DeRidder High School was named a Top Ten School by the Louisiana State Department of Education. McLamore earned distinctions

as State Outstanding High School Principal for Beauregard Parish, Region V Principal of the Year for the State of Louisiana and was named to an advisory council for the State Board of Secondary and Elementary Education. McLamore later moved to the Beauregard Parish School Board Central Office as Purchasing Agent, Child

Welfare and Attendance Supervisor and Director of Auxiliary Services. He retired as superintendent of the Grant Parish School Board in 2005. During his tenure in Grant Parish, he helped bring up performance scores and ACT scores, introduced the teaming concept to middle schools and established a program to reduce the drop-out rate.

McLamore was a certified teacher assessor/mentor and a certified Louisiana school business official. He was also a chemistry/biology adjunct instructor at Northwestern State University and an ad hoc professor and mentor for the "Teach" Program at Louisiana College, now Louisiana Christian University. He was most recently inducted into the Northwestern State University's Hall of Distinguished Educators in 2007.

After retiring as superintendent of Grant Parish Schools, McLamore returned to DeRidder High School to fill a semester-long position as a long term substitute. This substitute position turned into five years of his life-long love. He returned to the same chemistry lab at DeRidder High where he began in 1972. Teaching high school science again "rekindled a passion for the classroom and teaching students that he thought was long gone."

McLamore passed away March 25, 2022.



Chris Bertrand with his wife, Lori, and the couple's children, Rayleigh and Callen, hold a jersey symbolic of his role as NSU's 13th baseball coach.

Family at the heart of new NSU Baseball coach Bertrand

In an era of roster turnover, new Northwestern State baseball coach Chris Bertrand showed during his introductory news conference Tuesday afternoon he can rattle off names in rapid succession.

"This job is about the people," Bertrand said in front of a crowded Stroud Room inside the Donald G. Kelly Fieldhouse. "The job requires it. Success requires it. This job is about the people, and it's about more than a game. That's why I chose to do it. The people in this room have made an impact on me, and I want to continue to try to make an impact on you."

Bertrand became NSU's 13th head baseball coach June 6 after Bobby Barbier resigned to take the head coaching job at Southeastern. Bertrand spent the past seven years as Barbier's top assistant and associate head coach, handling a multitude of roles within the program.

Barbier hired Bertrand after a four-year head coaching stint at UT Tyler where Bertrand led the Patriots to three American Southwest Conference championships and three NCAA Division III Tournaments.

In his second year at Northwestern State, Bertrand helped the Demons collect the first Southland Conference Tournament championship in program history. He was in charge of an NSU offense that set the school record for single-season home runs with 61 this past season.

Maintaining that continuity was an important piece of Bostian's decision to elevate Bertrand to his first Division I head coaching position.

In addition to his childhood dreams, Bertrand said NSU's gilded legacy of baseball coaches was not lost on him

either. Four former NSU head coaches – Jim Wells, Dave Van Horn, John Cohen and Mitch Gaspard – ascended to head coaching positions in the Southeastern Conference as did former Demon assistants Rob Childress and Mike Bianco.

While referencing how his dream came true, Bertrand mentioned his family and the sacrifices his parents made while raising six children.

He saved the most emotional comments of his roughly 15-minute speech for his wife, Lori, and the couple's children, Rayleigh and Callen.

"I don't know what I did to deserve this woman," he said, choking up briefly. "All she knows how to do is love. She

loves me unconditionally, and that's a really hard thing to do. You can't be successful in this business without a really supportive person by your side, and the good Lord gave me the best one there is. I take a lot of inspiration from music and lyrics. Lori and I love Texas country music. Cody Johnson sings a song called 'With You I Am,' and my favorite line in it says 'I'm the same old boy but a whole lot better when you're holding my hand.' That's exactly how I feel about her.

"Our kids make sacrifices every day so I can do this. These are two really special ones. They have their own interests and passions. I admire Rayleigh's courage in everything she does. I admire her independence. I admire the way she goes about things. I admire Callen's energy. I admire his passions. Callen has 800 passions in life, but he attacks every single one of them. There are things to be learned from the gifts the Lord gave me. Those three are among the best gifts."





Commemorating 50 years since Title IX passage

The Northwestern State University Athletic Department hosted a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the passage of Title IX, a federal civil rights law that bars sex discrimination in the nation's schools. Signed June 23, 1972, Title IX is best known for unlocking educational and athletic opportunities.

The program specifically honored pioneering women athletes who competed at Northwestern from 1963-1975, recognized for playing "for the love of the game." The female

student athletes received no scholarships and had little funding for uniforms, equipment or travel.

A highlight of the program was a video message from Virginia Metcalf, a 1953 NSU graduate who participated in swimming, diving and softball as an undergraduate and continued to compete in sports after commissioning as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and embarking on a long career in the medical field.

2023 DEMON FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

9.2 @ UL LAFAYETTE
9.9 @ LOUISIANA TECH
9.16 VS STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
9.30 VS EASTERN ILLINOIS
10.7 @ LAMAR*
10.14 @ NICHOLLS*
10.21 VS SOUTHEASTERN*
10.28 @ MCNEESE*
11.4 VS HOUSTON CHRISTIAN*
11.11 @ INCARNATE WORD*
11.18 VS TEXAS A&M - COMMERCE*

* - CONFERENCE GAMES



VISIT NSUDEMONS.COM
FOR TICKET INFORMATION.

In Memory

1946 – Dorothy Brock McFarland,
May 14, 2023, Danville, Virginia

1950, 1960 – Audrey Jo King Speights,
May 17, 2023, Monroe

1951 – Parker Ballard, June 21, 2020,
Shreveport

1953 – Wanda Juanita Dortch Ballard,
July 11, 2021, Shreveport

1954 – Jim Bob Key, May 23, 2023,
Natchitoches

1957 – Peggy Hicks Carson,
May 13, 2023, Natchitoches

1958 – Randell Aaron Fletcher,
April 12, 2023, Verda

1958 – Roma Jennings McLamore
McKinley, May 17, 2023,
Ennis, Texas

1961 – Diana Jordan Hart,
May 17, 2023, Granbury, Texas

1962 – Erwin Ogletree, March 3, 2023,
Shreveport

1963 – Carolyn Wood Gewin,
May 14, 2023, Pleasant Hill

1964 – John S. Ghloson, July 25, 2022,
Shreveport

1965 – Elizabeth Ann Grigsby Reimer,
April 15, 2023, Alvin, Texas

1965 – Dennis Hollowell, Oct. 29, 2022,
Shelbyville, Texas

1967, 1972 – Thomas Nelson Carleton,
May 11, 2023, Bossier City

1969 – Joseph W. Schelette,
April 11, 2023, Natchitoches

1969, 1975 – Odis Faust, May 5, 2023,
Many

1970 – Patrick K. Murphy, April 27,
2023, Millersville, Maryland

1971 – James Lloyd Collins,
March 19, 2023, Bossier City

1973 – David Lofton, Jan. 25, 2023,
San Francisco

1974 – Eric Gormsen, Nov. 17, 2022,
Moreauville

1975 – Sharon Wilson Rumbelow,
May 26, 2023, Kenner

1979 – Lynda Liverman, Oct. 27, 2022,
Baton Rouge

1993 – Patricia Ann Kennedy, April 2, 2023,
Shreveport

1996 – Donald Ashton Ewing,
April 4, 2023, New Roads

2004 – Erin Alexandra Ehrhardt Veilleux,
April 8, 2023, Baton Rouge

2010 – Lisa Waddle Brister, April 14, 2023,
DeRidder

2017 – Justin Kern Dollar, Dec. 14, 2022,
DeRidder

2019 – Wendell Odom, June 10, 2019,
Oakdale

Lauren Corley Vaughn, April 7, 2023,
Alexandria

Brionna Eppers, May 4, 2023, Shreveport

Dr. Alexander Franklin Wied,
April 18, 2023, Alleytown, Texas
Wied was a member of the Leesville
campus faculty for over 40 years.

Dr. Drake Owens named vice president for External Affairs



Dr. Drake Owens was named executive vice president of External Affairs at Northwestern State University after serving as interim vice president since November 2022.

Owens will oversee the areas of Public Information and Media Relations, NSU Press Publications, University Advancement and Alumni Affairs, the Robert W.

Wilson Recreation Complex and Economic Development, Innovation and Outreach.

Owens said his focus will be on expanding the university's fundraising efforts and enhancing Northwestern State's role in economic development.

"We will be expanding our traditional fundraising model by promoting a variety of creative and engaging giving opportunities and promoting mutually beneficial donor relationships," said Owens. "The university will work to solidify our role as an economic engine for the region by prioritizing workforce development and seeking out meaningful public/private partnerships. Northwestern has a rich history of tradition, family, service and perseverance. It is an amazing

story to tell. NSU is primed and ready for the future with vast potential for growth and expansion."

Owens has been a full-time staff member at Northwestern for nearly 14 years. He has been assistant vice president of External Affairs for University Advancement since 2015. Owens was assistant director of Alumni and Development from 2006 to 2008 and director of University Advancement from 2008 to 2012.

He was an asset manager for Align Minerals Management, LLC for two years and has experience in mineral asset and wealth management, legal analysis, policy development, construction management and disaster relief.

Owens serves as executive director of the Mary R. Gallaspy Charitable Trust #2. He is a member of the Natchitoches Rotary Club, the Natchitoches Historic District Commission and the NSU Alumni Association. Owens was a 10-year member of the Natchitoches Area Jaycees.

Owens earned a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's in sports administration from Northwestern State. He received a law degree from Loyola University and a doctorate in educational administration from the University of New Orleans.

Owens and his wife Courtney have two children, Miller and Bailey.

Guess Who



Senior Class officers are pictured in the 1965 Potpourri. **Can you name them?** Send your answers to jacksonl@nsula.edu and include the year you graduated and city of residence.



Pictured in the Spring Looking Back: Members of the Student Union Governing Board Summer Council pictured in the Spring Alumni Columns were, front row from left, Pam Villiamarette, Carol Henderson and Ronda Guilliams. On the middle row are Denise Rabalais, Anna Lowe, Ginger Ferguson and Vickie Prather. On the back row were Eddie Hebert, Eddie McFearin, Rocky Smith, Doug Nichols, Dee Middleton, Jesse Patton Anderson, Mr. Robert Wilson and Joe Davis.

Those who answered correctly are as follows:
Dr. Colleen Cook (Johnson), 1978, 1982, Bolivar, Tennessee
Eddie Hebert, 1973, The Woodlands, Texas

Looking Back



What was hot in the Summer of '93?

Students sported the latest fashions and listened to the coolest tunes.

According to the Potpourri, bomber jackets, Girbaud jeans, colorful rugby shirts, denim shirts and baseball jerseys were all the rage, along with Air Jordans and shoe boots.

Music was ablaze as well that summer as everything was heard from the Funky Divas to Billy Ray Cyrus introducing the "Achy Breaky Heart" line dance. The Red Hot Chili Pepper and Boyz II Men were sizzling.

On the big screen, movie-goers flocked to see "Batman Returns," "A League of Their Own," "Far and Away," "The Last of the Mohicans" and the fall hits "Home Alone 2" and "A Few Good Men."



CLASS OF 1973



Graduates from the Class of 1973 were awarded their second diplomas during the Golden Jubilee celebration May 5-6. On the front row from left are Connie Soileau Loupe, Regina L. Emanuel, JoAnn Gines, Martha Russell Greer, Carol Admundson Lee, Marilyn Miller, Susan Hawthorne Stanley, Mary Sue Sepulvado Patrick, Annette LaBry Skaggs and Cynthia Riser Johnson. On the second row are Raymond Morrison, Douglas Gautreaux, Sue Snell Creighton, Debra Mitchell Davis, Joanne Sullivan Swearingen, Eddie Hebert, Tony Carter, Jack Skaggs, Martha Ann Reichley Rhea and Ruby Ann Benjamin-Garner. On the back row are Donald Johnson, James Berry, Demelvin Johnson, Walter Creighton, Dearl Sanders, Budd Cloutier, Jamey Layssard, Burley Johnson and Robert Hutson.